



REBUILD IOWA OFFICE (RIO) LEGISLATIVE WEEKLY

MARCH 12, 2009

AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF THIS ISSUE AS WELL AS PAST ISSUES
CAN BE FOUND AT:www.rio.iowa.gov/news/legislative_weekly/index.html

RIO MISSION:

The Rebuild Iowa Office will lead the State of Iowa's efforts to rebuild safer, stronger and smarter in the wake of the 2008 severe storms and catastrophic flooding.

RIO VISION:

We envision a resilient Iowa that will be safe, sustainable and economically strong for its people, reaffirming its ties to the land, rivers, environment and rich cultural history.

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MARCH DECLARED "FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH"

In an event held March 4 at the Old Capitol in Iowa City, Gov. Culver proclaimed March "Flood Awareness Month." Following the proclamation, the Governor met with officials from Iowa City, Coralville, Johnson County and the University of Iowa to discuss flood recovery issues and then held a town hall meeting with disaster-impacted Iowans.

The proclamation begins a month-long flood awareness campaign involving the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO), the Iowa Insurance Division, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division. Throughout March, personnel from these state agencies will share flood-related information and safety tips with the media and the public.



Governor Culver declares March "Flood Awareness Month" from the Old Capitol in Iowa City on March 4.

Flood awareness is particularly important in the aftermath of one of the worst natural disasters in Iowa. The floods and storms of 2008 are anticipated to be the fifth largest disaster on record in U.S. history, according to Public Assistance figures from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Officials also want to make sure Iowans are aware of the availability of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This is particularly important to consider in March with spring and the likelihood of additional flooding close at hand. Unlike

(Continued on page 2)

DISASTER-RELATED TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The Iowa Department of Revenue has been informed of federal income tax law changes which may benefit disaster-affected taxpayers.

Taxpayers in counties with presidential disaster declarations for individual assistance are eligible for all special tax provisions in federal tax publication 4492-B. These include:

Adair, Adams, Allamakee,

Appanoose, Audubon, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Clarke, Clayton, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Davis, Decatur, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Fremont, Greene, Grundy, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Harrison, Henry, Howard, Humboldt, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson,

Jones, Keokuk, Kossuth, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Mills, Mitchell, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Muscatine, Page, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Scott, Story, Tama, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Webster, Winnebago, Winneshiek, Worth and Wright.

(Continued on page 2)

HF 64 UPDATE

Iowans in 14 disaster-affected counties can now apply for unmet needs grants created by HF 64.

The \$10 million HF 64 set aside for these grants is allocated through the Department of Human Services (DHS) and provides households with up to \$2,500 for unreimbursed expenses for personal property, home repair, food assistance, mental health assistance, child care, and temporary housing incurred as a result of last year's disasters.

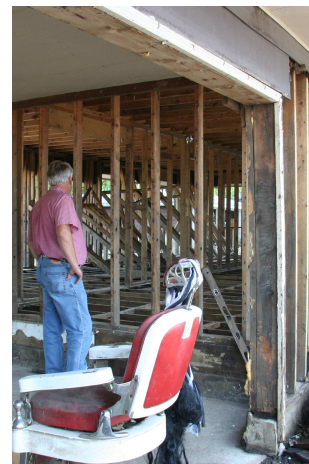
The grants will help cover unmet needs in the 78 counties presidentially-declared as disaster areas for Individual Assistance.

Applications are currently being accepted by Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs) in Benton, Buchanan, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Dubuque, Franklin, Fremont, Johnson, Linn, Louisa, Muscatine, Montgomery, Polk and Scott counties. These 14 counties alone serve more than half of all disaster-impacted Iowans. The remaining 64 counties are finalizing their preparations and will be accepting applications shortly.

Applicants should apply to the LTRC that covers the county where they lived when the disaster occurred. Applicants have until June 30, 2010, to apply for any existing funds. Applicants

may call the RIO (1-866-849-0323) or go to the RIO's Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov and click on the "Disaster Recovery Case Management" icon to find their appropriate committee.

Each LTRC will review and certify each application, then send the information to the DHS, the agency overseeing the new grant program. If an item or a service has already been paid for by an applicant using his or her own money, the claim will be reimbursed by check. In the case of a need that must still be purchased, the claim will be paid directly to a specific vendor.



Charts detailing the movement of disaster recovery funds are now available on the RIO Web site.

To view the charts, visit the following:

www.rio.iowa.gov/funds.html



FLOOD AWARENESS (from page 1)

homeowner's insurance, a person must wait 30 days after purchasing flood insurance before that policy becomes active.

People may purchase flood insurance for a home or business, regardless of whether the property is in a flood plain as long as the community is participating

in the NFIP. Iowans can find out whether a particular community is enrolled in the program by visiting the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

Another helpful Web site for Iowans interested in flood insurance is www.FloodSmart.gov. Homeowners, renters and small business owners can estimate their premiums

and calculate their flood insurance rate. There are currently more than 13,700 flood insurance policies in Iowa, with the average policy costing about \$722/yr.

Iowans can learn more about flood safety tips and how to prepare for a disaster by visiting www.bereadyiowa.org.

TAXES (from page 1)

Taxpayers in counties that have only received a presidential disaster declaration for Public Assistance (Carroll, Cherokee, Lyon, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Taylor and Wayne counties) are eligible for all special tax provisions in federal tax publication 4492-B EXCEPT

- Charitable Giving Incentives
- Net Operating Losses
- Education Credits
- Recapture of Federal Mortgage Subsidy
- Tax Relief for Temporary Relocation
- Employee Retention Credit
- Employer Housing Credit and Exclusion
- Demolition and Clean-up

Costs

- Increase in Rehabilitation Credit

For more information and to view all the changes in the federal income tax law regarding disaster victims, view the Iowa Department of Revenue's disaster relief page at www.state.ia.us/tax/news/DisasterRelief.html.

